

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
July 10, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman
James Workman
Rick Griffin
Bill Lally
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

SWEARING IN OF FINANCE DIRECTOR – MICHAEL SCHWOTZER

Town Clerk Arleen Andreozzi swore Michael Schwotzer into the position of Finance Director. Mr. Schwotzer has an extensive background in financial management and budgeting for municipalities.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Lally congratulated the Hampton Police Department for a great job controlling the crowds over the July 4th holiday.

Mr. Griffin commented on the number of people who came to Hampton over the July 4 holiday to see the new changes and to enjoy the good weather. He also noted the newspaper article in the Portsmouth Herald that complemented the fire and police departments on controlling the masses of people with fireworks at Hampton Beach.

Mr. Workman announced the Hampton Summer Festival this Saturday, July 15 at Tuck Field from 11am to 5pm.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1 – TED GUTHRIE – BOSTON AVENUE PARKING

Ted Guthrie was not able to attend.

2 – BILL BOWLEY – DRAKESIDE ROAD

Mr. Bowley addressed the Board. He is very concerned about the condition of Drakeside Road. He believes that the amount of dust is atrocious and the poor road condition creates a dangerous driving situation. Mr. Bowley recommended that the road needs a layer of hot top to make it passable for the time being, before permanent repairs can be made. Mr. Bowley said that the Board needs to discuss the road condition with Tom Nigrelli.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to hot top Drakeside Road. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

3 – APPROPRIATIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Bob Frese and Dick Glennon addressed the Board. The Appropriations Oversight Committee met with the three major department heads, the Finance Director and the Town Manager to discuss the appropriation process and identify how to make it more efficient. Committee recommendations included revamping the Town financial statements, a end of the month payables report from each department, payment of encumbrances not be combined with current year expenditures, and establish a preferred vendor list to seek the most favorable price. The Committee also suggested that the Board consider conducting additional review of the Town's cash management procedures to ensure that they are as efficient and technically modern as possible.

The Board thanked the Committee for their hard work. Mr. Workman noted that the Committee found nothing extraordinary about the 2005 encumbrances and that the appropriations had been approved by the Selectmen, Budget Committee and Town Meeting that had been deferred until year end. Mr. Barrington said that when he met with the Committee, Bob Casassa (Chairman Committee) referred to the scrutiny and negative criticism that the Board, Town Manager and Finance Director received from many Hampton residents, was a Red Herring used to distract attention from the real issues facing the Town.

The Board will make a decision on adopting the Committee's recommendations at the next Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Frese is willing to work with the appropriate person to implement any of the suggestions.

III. MINUTES – JUNE 26, 2006

The June 26, 2006 minutes stand as read.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Barrington returned home from his trip to Texas. His mother-in-law became ill during their trip is now doing fine.

Mr. Barrington recommended that two public hearings be scheduled to address a resident's request for a four way stop at the intersection of Concord Avenue and River Road and a stop sign at the corner of Highland Avenue and Brown Avenue.

The Town Manager announced that Unitil will be having an electric service interruption on Thursday, July 13th from 5AM to 7AM.

2 – REPORT ON PUBLIC FORUM ON FUTURE USE OF OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL / COURTHOUSE

A public forum was held on June 14, 2006 to take suggestions for the adaptive reuse of the Old Grammar School/Courthouse. The residents in attendance were supportive of renovating the building to serve as a community center or a combination of community meeting rooms and some town offices.

The forum resulted in the conclusion of requesting the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee to create a warrant article for the next Town meeting. It was decided that the Board would postpone a decision until Selectmen Moore was present to participate in the discussion. It was also suggested that the Planning Board and the Former Town Hall Committee should be involved.

3 – BEACH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE

David McNamara with Fay Spofford & Thorndike (FST) addressed the Board. He reported that all major paving is complete and the construction crews are working on the cleanup. The rainy spring and summer weather has delayed the infrastructure project. It is anticipated that the construction crews will be done with the minor detailing in the beach area within two weeks time (weather permitting). In the Island Area the top coat is down and some restoration and sidewalk work still needs to be completed.

Mr. Lally inquired about the small island area at the south end of the intersection located at Ashworth Avenue and Ocean Boulevard. Mr. McNamara explained that it is the project of the condominium developer and was approved by the Planning Board.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lally said that many residents expressed interest in volunteering in an emergency event. He has been researching the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program which trains civilians for free. He believes having trained community members would be an asset to the Town.

Mr. Griffin inquired about the letter from the New Hampshire Liquor Commission. Mr. Barrington explained that a letter from the Commission is standard procedure as it is intended to give the Town an opportunity to

comment on the application. Mr. Griffin is concerned about the establishment located at 24 Harbor Road receiving a liquor license as he believes the building was to be for residential use only and not business purposes. He suggested that the Board should consult with the Zoning Board of Adjustment to see if a restaurant or bar was agreed to.

Mr. Griffin said that a resident located near Wally's Pub's is having problems with loud music from outside speakers. It was suggested that the resident speak to the management at Wally's to see if the noise level can be resolved.

Mr. Griffin said that a resident contacted him about Waste Management picking up the recycling bin up at 5AM. The noise of the dumpster being lifted and emptied wakes her up. Mr. Griffin asked if there was anything that could be done to reduce the noise level.

Mr. Griffin said that a resident along Kings Highway is having problems with neighbors pumping water from their property onto hers. In the past she has filed complaints and would like to see something done.

Mr. Griffin also had a property owner contact him about her driveway not being patched yet along Witch Island Way. She would appreciate this matter being resolved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1 – SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOADING ZONE ON P STREET

The Board received a request for a public hearing to be held for a 60 foot loading zone along P Street near Patriots Corner Grocery Store. McNamara noted that there is 45 feet along the curb cuts between Patriots Corner Grocery and the neighboring property.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to schedule a public hearing on July 24, 2006 for a 45 foot loading zone along P Street. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to schedule a public hearing for a four way stop at the intersection of Concord Avenue and River Road and a stop sign at the corner of Highland Avenue and Brown Avenue. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2 – TOWN MANGER RESIGNATION / REPLACEMENT ISSUES

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that Town Attorney Mark Gearreald act as the interim Town Manager during the period when Mr. Barrington leaves (after August 25) and a new one is hired. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Last Monday (July 3rd) the Board met with the Local Government Center (LGC) to discuss utilizing their recruitment services. The cost would be \$6,000 which would include a nationwide search, screening process and reference checks.

It was questioned if advertising in local newspapers was worthwhile as it is unlikely that qualified candidates would apply from these ads.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to advertise in the ICMA Newsletter and the LGC website only. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

A financial background check will be included in the contractual agreement with the LGC.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to sign the LGC recruitment contract. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

3 – SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING UNDER RSA 41:14-A FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SIDEWALK AND PARKING EASEMENT AT 428 LAFAYETTE ROAD

The Planning Board and the Conservation Commission recommended that the Board of Selectmen accept the parking and sidewalk easement associated with the redevelopment of the former Odd Fellows property at 428 Lafayette Road.

RSA 41:14-A has very explicit specifications regarding public hearings and the vote. Two public hearings must be held at least 10 but not more than 14 days apart and the Board of Selectmen's vote shall take place no sooner than 7 days nor later than 14 days after the second public hearing.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to schedule the first public hearing for the acceptance of sidewalk and parking easement at 428 Lafayette Road on July 24 and the second on August 7 followed by the vote on August 21. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

4 - \$500 PORTSMOUTH GARDEN CLUB GRANT

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to accept the \$500 Portsmouth Garden Club Grant. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

The Playhouse Village Home Owners Association wrote the Board a letter requesting the addition of two signs to their neighborhood. One of the proposed signs would read "Not a Through Street" and the other "Drive Slow Children".

It was decided that the letter be referred to the Highway Safety Committee for consideration.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Rockingham County Nursing Home Applications
2. Lions Club Yard Sale
3. Recreation Department Raffle
4. Sign Permit application
5. Lease, Termination of Lease – 14 O Street

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to accept the consent agenda as presented. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Reniere asked if the proposed stop sign at Highland Avenue and Brown Avenue would be permanent. Mr. Barrington explained that the public hearing scheduled on July 24 will provide residents with the opportunity to voice their opinions on the proposal before the Board makes a decision. He also asked if the guardrail that was above the tide gate along Highland Avenue will be reinstalled. He is concerned about the removal of the guard rail causing problems with the tide gate. He also inquired about the infrastructure project deadlines. The current contract with Zoppo ends on July 28th in the beach area and on August 25th in the Kings Highway area. Zoppo is planning on getting the trailers out of the Church parking lot by the end of July.

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Next Monday will be the Department Heads meeting with the Board at 7PM to discuss long term and budget plans.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman